1 REPORTER'S RECORD 1 VOLUME 35 OF 59 VOLUMES TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 08CR0333 2 COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS CAUSE NO. AP-78,525 3 5 IN THE DISTRICT COURT TRAVIS JAMES MULLIS, 6 **APPELLANT** 7 VS. GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS 8 THE STATE OF TEXAS, 9 APPELLEE. 122ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT 10 FILED IN 11 COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS 12 OCT 27 2011 13 14 Louise Pearson, Clerk HEARING ON MOTION TO WAIVE 15 POST-CONVICTION HABEAS REVIEW 16 00:00 17 18 19 20 On the 11th day of October, 2011, the following 21 proceedings came on to be heard in the above-entitled 22 and numbered cause before the Honorable John Ellisor, 23 Judge presiding, held in Galveston County, Texas; 24 25 Proceedings reported by machine shorthand.

## ORIGINAL

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1				VOLUME 35	5			
2	МО	TION TO	WAIVE	POST-CONVI	CTION	HABEAS	REVIEW	
3				EXHIBIT IN	IDEX			
4								
5	STATE'S EXHIBITS	2	DESCRI	PTION	OFF	ERED	ADMITTED	
6		,		arano's	<b>0</b>	5	5	
7	1		report			5	3	
8	2		Copy o	f hearing se motion		5	5	
9	3		CD - v	ideo and		5	5	
10			articl				_	
11	4		Poluns	ky records		5	5	
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1	OCTOBER 11, 2011	1	seriously and I appreciated that he kept me informed	
2	(Open court, Defendant present)	2	throughout the whole time. And we have read thoroughly	
3	THE COURT: Cause No. 08CR0833, the State	3	his report. We don't have any objections to the report	
4	of Texas versus Travis James Mullis. And because we're	4	as a whole; so, we certainly have no problems putting	
5	on the record, I will ask that the attorneys for the	5	it into evidence.	
6	State and for the Defense to orally state their names	6	What I would like to put on the record is	
7	and who they represent.	7	that we have strenuously objected to Mr. Mullis about	
8	MS. CAMERON: For the State, Your Honor,	8	waiving. We think that's important to state. We	
9	Donna Cameron.	9	started visiting Mr. Mullis in April when he was still	
10	MR. ROADY: And Jack Roady.	10	in Galveston. Myself or Mr. Romig, who's co-counsel,	
11	MS. ALLEN: And Kayla Allen.	11	or the other attorneys in the office or other	
12	THE COURT: Thank you.	12	investigators have visited Mr. Mullis between I	
13	MR. LEVENSON: On behalf of Travis Mullis	13	would say between 8 and 12 times between that time in	
14	I'm Brad Levenson, Director of the Office of Capital	14	Galveston and since he's been in Polunsky. We go at	
15	Writs.	15	least twice a month to Polunsky and visit all of our	
16	MR. ROMIG: And Robert Romig, Office of	16	clients.	
17	Capital Writs.	17	It was after our first visit that	j
18	THE COURT: Thank you. It is October the	18	Mr. Mullis wrote me a letter and said that he wanted to	
19	11th, 2011, at about 1:15 PM. Good afternoon, Mr.	19	waive and I came back to Galveston to see Mr. Mullis	
20	Mullis.	20	and we had a lengthy conversation. It was about the	
21	THE COURT. I understand walte here today	21	same time that he was waiving his appeal. And I got  Mr. Mullis to agree to give us I think at that time	
22	THE COURT: I understand we're here today	22	two weeks to continue working on his case and we've had	
23	to review the petitioner, Mr. Mullis's motion to waive	23	a lengthy dialogue the last six months where we've	
24	his post-conviction habeas review.	24 25	gotten an extension of time from Mr. Mullis, a chance	
25	Mr. Levenson, would you like to proceed?	123	gotten an extension of time from Mr. Mullis, a chance	
1	MR. LEVENSON: We wanted to put a couple	1	to work on his case.	
2	of things on the record but I don't know if the Court	2	There had been some back and forth in that	
3	wanted to question Mr. Mullis first and then we could	3	six months. Travis has pretty much maintained he	
4	put this on the record after or we could put our	4	wanted to waive but would give us the opportunity to	
5	thoughts on the record first. I'll leave it up to you.	5	review his case and we have had some opportunity to	
Ì		1 -	TO THE CASE AND THE TO THAT COME OF FORTER TO	
6	THE COURT: I'm going to begin by allowing	6	review his case but certainly not enough time.	
6 7	. ,			
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7	THE COURT: I'm going to begin by allowing you and the State, if they have any questions for	6 7	review his case but certainly not enough time.  What we have done so far is we have	
7 8	THE COURT: I'm going to begin by allowing you and the State, if they have any questions for Mr. Mullis. Then I'll ask for any followups.	6 7 8	review his case but certainly not enough time.  What we have done so far is we have started the investigative process in Texas. It takes	
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	THE COURT: I'm going to begin by allowing you and the State, if they have any questions for Mr. Mullis. Then I'll ask for any followups.  I'll state for the record I'm very familiar with Mr. Mullis' case having been the presiding Judge from Day 1 on this case. I have reviewed his affidavit. I've reviewed the report that was written by Dr. Scarano when he was requested to evaluate Mr. Mullis' competency to waive the issue.  So, I will begin by deferring to the attorneys to ask some questions if they choose.  MR. LEVENSON: I don't have any questions for Mr. Mullis. What I'd like to do is put some of our thoughts on the record.  THE COURT: You may proceed.  MR. LEVENSON: Thank you, Your Honor.  First we'd like to thank you for ordering	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	review his case but certainly not enough time.  What we have done so far is we have started the investigative process in Texas. It takes about a year and a half between the time someone is convicted and the time their State habeas is due in the convicting court. So, we've had about six months.  In that time we have collected trial counsels' file and have interviewed at least one of the trial counsel. We have contacted every defense expert on the case, those who testified and those who did not and received their reports and have talked to them about the case.  We have visited and talked with some of Mr. Mullis' family. We went to see his mother in Florida and have talked extensively with his half-brother and half-sister in North Carolina. I believe they came down and testified at trial. And we	

11 where we are in our investigation at this point and to One thing that we have not had a chance to 1 do yet, which I think is most important, is to review perhaps kick this can down the road a little bit 2 2 farther so we can have more time to work on Mr. Mullis' the transcript. The transcript, we understand, will be 3 case and he can make even a more informed decision coming out this week or soon thereafter. It's a very 4 4 about what this office can do for him. I just don't important part of our investigative process. We can 5 think he can make that decision right now. read the trial counsels' file, we can talk to trial 6 6 Thank you, Your Honor. 7 counsel, we can talk to experts but until we read the THE COURT: Ms. Cameron. 8 transcript of the trial, we can't really put the whole 8 MS. CAMERON: Briefly, Your Honor, I would 9 trial into context and come up with a determination of 9 what issues should be raised and what issues are not like to say that we have tried to cooperate in every 10 10 way that we can with Mr. Levenson. The State of Texas going to be very fruitful. And because we haven't read 11 11 does not oppose his request for an extension of time, 12 the transcript, we haven't had a chance to do that most 12 especially considering the review of the transcript and 13 important part of our job which is to put the trial in 13 context. We have not had time to interview witnesses the time that might take. 14 14 We have provided our files to Mr. Levenson or jurors. We don't do that until we've read the 15 15 and to his office. Again, they are voluminous with the transcript; so, that's something we would have done 16 16 exception of the work product. It probably is 17 later on down the road. 17 contained in, give or take, about 15 or so boxes Mr. Romig came here yesterday and began 18 18 including if they wish to review that information that his review of the trial counsels' file and I appreciate 19 19 we have from the voir dire. 20 all the cooperation from the Galveston District 20 In dealing with Dr. Scarano's evaluation, Attorney's Office throughout this whole procedure. Mr. 21 21 we have done a subpoena. We did subpoenas for any and 22 Romig reviewed about 11 boxes but there are a 22 all records that Dr. Scarano requested. We do have an significant number of boxes to go. So, we haven't had 23 23 affidavit of no records regarding any mail. I know 24 24 a chance to complete that. that Mr. Mullis had been communicating but at the time 25 We have told this to Mr. Mullis. We had 25 10 that we did the subpoena, it was then that we put the that conversation again today, that we would like more 1 1 request for the mail covers so there are no letters and time to do our job and to determine what issues can be 2 2 we specifically excluded anything that might be raised and what issues can't. And we are not near that 3 3 attorney/client privileged communication. vet. We just don't have an idea how this investigation 4 I would like to offer for the record and will completely gel. And, so, again I asked Mr. Mullis 5 5 for the Court's consideration those things that were for more time and he can tell you whether he would 6 provided to Dr. Scarano and also forwarded to 7 7 agree to that. Mr. Levenson so that he would have that to review and I've had conversations with Mr. Mullis 8 Dr. Scarano for his review to make his final decision. like I've had conversation with other clients who have 9 For the record, we, of course, would like told me they don't want a life without parole sentence, 10 10 to provide State's Exhibit No. 1 which is a complete but I've seen the end game, Your Honor, and I've seen 11 11 clients at the last minute, last seconds of their lives copy of Dr. Scarano's report. Additionally, State's 12 12 Exhibit No. 2 is a transcript from the hearing that was 13 who would have given anything for more time. And 13 held on May 20th, 2011 on the hearing for the pro se Travis is 25 and I think most 25-year-olds probably 14 14 motion where the Defendant waived his direct appeal 15 don't know exactly what they want. 15 attorney, Wayne Hill. And, again, that has also been So, while I hear Mr. Mullis and believe he 16 16 provided to Mr. Levenson. truly believes that he does not want a life without 17 17 Additionally, we have a State's Exhibit 18 parole sentence, if that's the best he could get. I 18 No. 3 where the Defendant when he was bench-warranted 19 know from experience that clients do change their mind 19 specifically for this hearing, he granted what is now I as litigation gets farther down the road. I've also 20 20 believe a second interview with Chris Paschenko where explained this to Mr. Mullis. 21 21 he was asked a lot of questions about his case and his 22 22 So, while I do understand Dr. Scarano's appeal and that was also provided to Dr. Scarano and is

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Mr. Levenson.

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report and I don't have any objections to the content

of the report, I would actually ask you to look beyond

that report and to look at the age of Mr. Mullis and

referenced in his report and it was also provided to

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1	Additionally, State's Exhibit No. 4 are	1	office are educated, trained appellate specialists.
2	the records from the Polunsky Unit which are the	2	They are experienced in reviewing trial transcripts,
3	complete classification file of the Defendant. And	3	talking to witnesses and pouring through evidence and
4	State's Exhibit 5, which are the medical records for	4	discovering things that might change the outcome of
5	Travis Mullis from TDCJ Health Services archives that	5	your trial.
6	were also provided to Dr. Scarano and to Defense	6	THE DEFENDANT: I'm sure that's the same
7	counsel.	7	as the case was with Mr. Hill, sir. I'm aware of that.
8	And at this time that's all I would like	8	THE COURT: Okay. And if you waive this,
9	to put on the record and I will tender that to the	9	they stop doing that. That's the point. Waive means
10	Court.	10	to give up.
11	THE COURT: Any objection to the admission	11	THE DEFENDANT: I understand.
12	of those documents?	12	THE COURT: That they would stop the whole
13	MR. LEVENSON: No, Your Honor.	13	process of working on your behalf, trying to find
14	THE COURT: State's Exhibits 1 through 5	14	something that might change the ultimate outcome.
15	are admitted.	15	THE DEFENDANT: I understand that, sir.
16	Well, Mr. Mullis, let's hear from you.	16	THE COURT: Do you have any questions for
17	What are your thoughts regarding allowing the process	17	the Court?
18	to go on and Mr. Levenson and his office continuing to	18	THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.
19	investigate your case and represent you or pressing on	19	THE COURT: Any questions for your
20	with your attempt to waive that process?	20	counsel?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Continue with my waiver of	21	THE DEFENDANT: They've all been answered
22	the process.	22	previously.
23	THE COURT: Okay. Tell me why.	23	THE COURT: Okay.
24	THE DEFENDANT: As I stated to you before	24	Mr. Levenson, do you have anything
25	when I was waiving my counsel with Mr. Hill, I've	25	further?
	14		16
1	accepted the punishment the jury's given me. I have no	1	MR. LEVENSON: I do want to point out that
1 2	accepted the punishment the jury's given me. I have no issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence	1 2	MR. LEVENSON: I do want to point out that while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really
		!	·
2	issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence	2	while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really
3	issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence for my actions and I'm choosing to stick with it.	2	while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really can't effectuate a habeas waiver until the time comes
3 4	issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence for my actions and I'm choosing to stick with it.  THE COURT: You are 25 years old today; is	2 3 4	while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really can't effectuate a habeas waiver until the time comes when the petition would be due which raises again the
2 3 4 5	issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence for my actions and I'm choosing to stick with it.  THE COURT: You are 25 years old today; is that correct?	2 3 4 5	while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really can't effectuate a habeas waiver until the time comes when the petition would be due which raises again the question. It's unclear at this point when the habeas
2 3 4 5 6	issue with that punishment. I accept my consequence for my actions and I'm choosing to stick with it.  THE COURT: You are 25 years old today; is that correct?  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.	2 3 4 5 6	while Mr. Mullis can remove us from the case, he really can't effectuate a habeas waiver until the time comes when the petition would be due which raises again the question. It's unclear at this point when the habeas would be what the due date is for the habeas.
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19 December date so he could make up his mind whether he 1 the extension at least through December 19th, Mr. 1 wanted to file something on his own. That would at 2 Mullis, okay? 2 least give him a date certain to do that. That date 3 I think -- and again I'm going to review would go away if Mr. Mullis did file an appeal. Then the file some more. I would urge you that the wise 4 thing to do would allow the office of capital writs to it's up to the State to file a response and then the 5 5 continue working on this through that time. If you 6 clock starts ticking again. 6 But again the main point is that Mr. 7 ultimately waive, fine. At least they won't be behind 7 the game if you change your mind in the next three Mullis can't really waive his habeas until the time 8 8 it's due and that would be another reason for keeping 9 months. They wouldn't have to kind of crank back up 9 and try to catch up with the time they've lost. Do you 10 us on the case because we could continue to work on the 10 understand my reasoning? case during this time. He's going to be sitting either 11 11 THE DEFENDANT: I understand, though I here or at Polunsky and we certainly have the time and 12 12 have to say I disagree with that, with keeping them on 13 energy and the desire to work on Mr. Mullis' case on 13 board. Because part of the issue is that we're running his behalf. 14 14 a 60-day timeline now or just over 60-day timeline now THE COURT: Okay. Regarding that issue of 15 15 and we're practically burning time and if it comes down extending the time, do you have any questions about 16 16 that, Mr. Mullis? to the last minute, there could be a mistake that could 17 17 cause me to not be able to waive my appeal. It could THE DEFENDANT: No, sir. 18 18 affect my right to waive my appeal, violate that right THE COURT: Okay. 19 19 to waive that appeal, if I choose -- or the habeas if I THE DEFENDANT: It would have to actually 20 20 be a requirement in any case because this hearing is 21 choose to because the deadline ran down to the last 21 minute and the Court did not take action in time. 22 taking place after the writ initial expiration date 22 THE COURT: Mr. Levenson, do you have an given the fact that I will not be filing an appeal. 23 23 opinion on that issue? THE COURT: Okay. Anything further from 24 24 the State? MR. LEVENSON: I think Mr. Mullis can --25 25 18 20 MS. CAMERON: Your Honor, the State does if we're permitted to stay on this case -- Mr. Mullis 1 1 has expressed his concerns to me before. If his not oppose any request for extension. And is it my 2 petition is filed and Mr. Mullis wishes to withdraw it, understanding that Mr. Mullis is not discharging his 3 attorneys, his writ attorneys at this day; he is going 4 I do not believe that this Court or the Court of 4 Criminal Appeals will not listen to that. I think with the extension that they have asked for and that 5 5 would be up until what period? 6 we'll be back here again if it's in front of this Court 6 and this Court will have to determine whether Mr. 7 THE COURT: I think the date that the 7 order asked to be extended is December 19th? 8 Mullis really intends to at that point waive his habeas 8 because the habeas deadline has passed and something is MR. LEVENSON: December 19th. 9 9 on file. He can actually seek to withdraw at that time THE COURT: Okay. 10 10 MR. LEVENSON: Either with us as his if he is found to be competent. 11 11 So, I don't share the same fears. Though attorneys or without us as his attorneys he would have 12 12 I'm not standing in his shoes, I don't have the same until that date in which to file a petition if he did 13 13 fears the Court wouldn't let him withdraw the petition not file an appeal. He could still in pro se file a 14 14 petition even if he discharges us as attorneys. I just 15 if it was filed. 15 THE COURT: Okay. wanted to give him a date certain that he had to file a 16 16 Mr. Mullis, I'm certainly going to take 17 petition if he didn't file an appeal. 17 your desires into consideration as I ponder this in the MS. CAMERON: So, does that mean that 18 18 next 24 hours when I make my decision -- okay? Mr. Mullis is discharging you-all today? 19 19 Anything further from the State or 20 THE COURT: Well, I think that's the 20 desire that Mr. Mullis has expressed. 21 Defense? 21 Mr. Roady. THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 22 22 MR. ROADY: Actually, Judge, to clarify THE COURT: I am going to take that under 23 23 and it's probably already been said -- I want to be 24 advisement as to whether I'm going to acquiesce and 24 sure that everyone is clear on it. Mr. Mullis does grant that and go along with it. I am going to grant 25 25

- 0	ctober 11, 2011		<u>.</u>
	21		23
1	understand that there's a very limited time for him to	1	ask that Mr. Mullis not leave until at least today's
2	file his writ application and that if he waits beyond	2	Tuesday at least until Thursday until I've had a
3	this date in December, then it will be too late. And	3	chance to issue a written order.
4	under the statute an untimely writ application won't be	4	MR. LEVENSON: If the Court does want us
5	considered and would just ask that the Court verify	5	back, we're only a couple hours away.
6	that with Mr. Mullis.	6	THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.
7	THE COURT: Mr. Mullis, I'm sure Mr.	7	
8	Levenson has gone over this with you. But you just	8	
9	heard what the State had to say. There is kind of a	9	
10	deadline and if you wait beyond that, it's ineffective.	10	
11	THE DEFENDANT: Essentially as I	11	
12	understand it, by law, if Mr. Levenson and his office	12	
13	were to be released and nothing is filed by December	13	
14	19th, that's it. The waiver is officially in effect	14	
15	and it's automatically already been waived and nothing	15	
16	can be filed.	16	
17	THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any other	17	
18	questions or concerns?	18	
19	THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.	19	
20	MR. ROADY: None from the State, Your	20	
21	Honor.	21	
22	MR. LEVENSON: Does the Court need us back	22	
23	here tomorrow for a ruling or are you going to do a	23	
24	ruling and send it out?	24	
25	THE COURT: I will notify you of the	25	
-	22		24
1	ruling. You're welcome to come back if you would like.	1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	MR. LEVENSON: We're going to be up at	2	
3	Livingston tomorrow.	3	THE STATE OF TEXAS *
4	THE COURT: All right. Not required.	۱.	COUNTY OF GALVESTON *
5	All right. That will conclude this	5	GODNIT OF GALVESTOR
6	hearing.	6	I, Judy Hansen, Official Court Reporter in and for
7	MS. CAMERON: Just one thing, Your Honor,	7	the 122nd District Court of Galveston County, State of
8	for purposes since we have bench-warranted Mr.	8	Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing
1	Mullis here and they would like to have him transported	9	contains a true and correct transcription of all
10	back for purposes of the jail, is it approved and	10	portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in
11	appropriate at this time to have him bench-warranted at	11 12	writing by counsel for the parties to be included in this volume of the Reporter's Record, in the
12	any time after today?	13	above-styled and numbered cause, all of which occurred
	THE DEFENDANT: To bring me back if	14	in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.
13	necessary or to send me back up there?	15	I further certify that this Reporter's Record of
14	MR. LEVENSON: To go back	16	the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the
15	MS. CAMERON: I'm sorry	17	exhibits, if any, admitted by the respective parties.
16	THE DEFENDANT: Are you referring to	18	WITNESS MY OFFICIAL HAND this the 14th day of
17	bench-warranting back to Polunsky or bench-warranting	19	October, 2011. /s/پيلر Hansen ل
18		20	Ouder Causen
19	for legal purposes?  MS. CAMERON: You would be going back to	22	Judy Hansen, Texas CSR 4979
20			Expiration Date: 12/31/2012
21	Polunsky.	23	Official Court Reporter
22	THE DEFENDANT: That's fine as long as the		122nd District Court
23	Court would be kind to send me a copy of the final	24	Galveston County, Texas
24	order to Polunsky.		Galveston, Texas
25	THE COURT: Absolutely. And I'm going to	25	